GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:594
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2003
BOOST TO CONSUMER MOVEMENT
GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the recent past, consumer movement in the country has received a tremendous boost due to consumer courts, media and consumer cooperation organizations;

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government to give further boost to consumer movement in the country;

(c) whether several organizations of traders, both wholesale and retail including middlemen are trying to weaken the consumer movement in the country; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to break these cartels?

Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENTREFERRED TO IN PARTS (a) TO (d) OF REPLYTO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 594 FOR 2/5/20
REGARDING BOOST TO CONSUMER MOVEMENT

(a) : Yes, Sir. The consumer movement has gained considerable momentum in the country due to the persistent efforts made to create consumer awareness by the Central/State Governments, NGOs, consumer organizations, media and others.

(b) : In addition to undertaking audio, video and print media publicity programmes and observance of 'National Consumer Day' on 24th December, World Consumer Rights Day on 15thMarch, involving all concerned, some of the important steps taken by the Department of Consumer Affairs to further strengthen consumer movement, include;

i. Amendment of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 made in December, 2002.Among others, the provision made to set up District Consumer Protection Council at district level is expected to strengthen consumer movement at grass root level.

ii. Financial assistance are extended under the Consumer Welfare Fund to promote and protect the welfare of consumers and to strengthen the consumer movement in the country. Under the Fund, a scheme, namely, District Consumer Information Centre has been launched to set up a Centre in each district in a phased manner. Another scheme, i.e., Jagriti Shivir Yojana has also been launched for spreading consumer awareness amongst the Below Poverty Line categories of the population.

(c) & (d): No specific instance has come to the notice of the Government. The legislations governing the trade and industry and the consumers do the balancing act to provide proper environment to the growth of the trade and industry on the one hand and to provide fair and competitive market for the consumers on the other hand.